

REMARKS

Enclosed is a replacement formal drawing sheet 1/7 in which Fig. 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-22 now stand in the application, new claims 20-22 having been added.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The prior art rejections stated in the Office action are respectfully traversed.

The problem to which the present invention is directed is specific to satellite networks, and the invention resides in the use of labels in the header of packets sent via satellite, with the labels identifying the particular subnetwork to which the station belongs, as well as the spot in which the station is located.

The portion of Gudat '609 that is relied on by the examiner deals with Mobile IP. The examiner asserts that lines 5-63 of column 6 of Gudat disclose Applicant's claimed (claim 1) feature, "the addressing header of each packet further contains a label field containing an identifier characteristic of a sub-network, to which the terminal station belongs, and [of] the spot in which the satellite terminal or the ground station with which the terminal is associated is located". The examiner equates Gudat's "care-of" address with this feature, **but** it is respectfully submitted that the examiner is mistaken.

In Mobile IP, when a mobile host registers with a foreign network (i.e., a network other than its home network), it uses a "care-of" address to which its home agent will forward packets that arrive addressed to that mobile host. The "care-of" address is either the address of an agent

on the foreign network or a local IP address of the mobile host obtained on the foreign network.
(See, e.g., lines 9-16 of column 5).

But Gudat does **not** discuss "sub-networks", nor does Gudat discuss an arrangement in which each terminal station of the network is associated with a satellite terminal or a ground station located in the coverage of a particular spot of a particular satellite". Gudat does **not** discuss a "label" field, and most important, Gudat also does **not** teach or suggest an arrangement wherein such a label field designates both a sub-network to which the terminal station belongs, as well as designating a spot in which the satellite terminal or the ground station with which said terminal station is associated is located". All of these features are specifically recited in claim 1, yet **none** is discussed anywhere in Gudat. It is respectfully submitted that the examiner finds these features in Gudat only through the prohibited use of hindsight gained from the knowledge of Applicant's **own** disclosure.

At line 6 of column 16, Gudat mentions the possibility of implementing its WAN using low earth orbit satellites "which are still under development." Gudat clearly does not provide any details concerning how this would be implemented, and therefore, could not possibly teach either the use of a header address label, that designates a particular spot beam, or the many other specific features recited in claim 1.

All of the other claims 2-22 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1. While there are a number of additional features in the dependent claims which are neither shown nor suggested in the applied art, no further discussion is seen to be needed at this time in light of the prior art failing to teach the subject matter of claim 1.

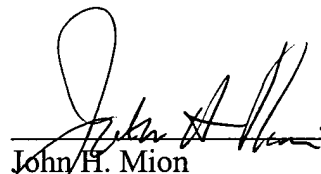
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/988,290

New dependent claims 20-22 have been added to emphasize distinctive features of the invention. In view of the above-described deficiencies in Gudat (the primary reference), the prior art rejections based on anticipation and obviousness should be withdrawn; the disclosures of Hakulinen and Cable do not make up for the deficiencies in Gudat's disclosure.

Filed concurrently herewith is an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter (with fee) for two (2) excess total claims necessitated by the filing of this Amendment.

Also filed concurrently herewith is a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of Three Months. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits a replacement drawing sheet 1/7 in which VPN1 and VPN2 in Fig. 1 have been changed to SR1 and SR2, respectively, in order to conform to the corresponding terms found in the specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/7